CLAIMS

<u>What is Claimed:</u>

1. A computer method comprising the steps of:

    i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;

    ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;

    and

    iii) employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating department store space-requirements problem with department store space-availability solution.

2. A method according to claim 1, comprising a step of updating the department store space-requirements database.

3. A method according to claim 2, comprising a step of updating the department store space-requirements database so that it includes the results of employing a data mining technique.

4. A method according to claim 1, comprising a step of updating the department store space-availability database.

5. A method according to claim 4, comprising a step of updating the department store space-availability database so that it includes the effects of employing a data mining technique on the department store space-requirements database.

6. A method according to claim 2, comprising a step of refining a employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-requirements database.

7. A method according to claim 4, comprising a step of refining a employed data mining technique in cognizance of pattern changes embedded in each database as a consequence of updating the department store space-availability database.

8. A method according to claim 1, comprising a step of employing neural networks as the data mining technique.

9. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps

for providing an interactive department store space management database, the method comprising the steps of:

    i) providing a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;

5   ii) providing a department store space-availability database comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space management solutions, department store space information, and department store space diagnostics;

and

10   iii) employing a data mining technique for interrogating said department store space-requirements and department store space-availability databases for generating an output data stream, said output data stream correlating department store space-requirements problem with department store space-availability solution.

15 10. A computer comprising:

    i) means for inputting a department store space-requirements database comprising a compendium of individual department store space-requirements history;

    ii) means for inputting a department store space-availability database

20   comprising a compendium of at least one of department store space

management solutions, department store space information, and

department store space diagnostics;

iii) means for employing a data mining technique for interrogating said

department store space-requirements and department store

5   space-availability databases;

and

iv) means for generating an output data stream, said output data stream

correlating department store space-requirements problem with

department store space-availability solution.

10